

## **1995 Hall of Fame Inductee**

### **Arnold B. Cordes**

Arnold B. Cordes was born in Polk County and grew up on the family's 140 acre dairy farm near Comstock. He attended a rural elementary school and Cumberland High School. Arnold graduated from UW-River Falls in May 1942 with a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture Education. He received a Master's Degree in 1962 from UW-Madison.

Arnold taught at Luck High School in Polk County, had a brief stint in the Army, and then taught at Eau Claire Memorial High School until September 1964. He joined the staff of the State Board of Vocational Technical and Adult Education as an Agricultural Supervisor. In July 1967, the agricultural staff functions were transferred to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, where he served as State FFA Executive Secretary and State Consultant in Agriculture Education until his retirement.

After retiring in 1983, Arnold served as the Executive Director of the Wisconsin FFA Foundation. In March 1995 he left the Foundation, having raised more than \$1 million for FFA activities and programs. He has been the recipient of the Honorary State and American FFA Degrees, the WAVAI and NVATA Outstanding Member Award, Wisconsin FFA Alumni Service Award, and the National FFA Alumni Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award.

Arnold also received the State and National FFA VIP Award, Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Distinguished Agriculturalist Award, Governor's Special Award, State Superintendent's Recognition of Excellence Award, and Distinguished Alumnus Award from UW-River Falls.

Arnold and his wife, Katherine, live in Madison and have one daughter, Marlene.